

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

URGING ALBANIA TO ENSURE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON JULY 3, 2005, ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 155) urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 155

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with the Republic of Albania and appreciates the ongoing support of the people of Albania;

Whereas the President of Albania has called for elections to Albania's parliament, known as the People's Assembly, to be held on July 3, 2005;

Whereas Albania is one of 55 participating States in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), all of which have adopted the 1990 Copenhagen Document containing specific commitments relating to the conduct of elections;

Whereas these commitments, which encourage transparency, balance, and impartiality in an election process, have become the standard by which observers determine whether elections have been conducted freely and fairly;

Whereas, though improvements over time have been noted, the five multiparty parliamentary elections held in Albania between 1991 and 2001, as well as elections for local offices held between and after those years, fell short of the standards in the Copenhagen Document to varying degrees, according to OSCE and other observers;

Whereas with OSCE and other international assistance, the Government of Albania has improved the country's electoral and legal framework and enhanced the capacity to conduct free and fair elections;

Whereas subsequent to the calling of elections, Albania's political parties have accepted a code of conduct regarding their campaign activities, undertaking to act in accordance with the law, to refrain from inciting violence or hatred in the election campaign, and to be transparent in disclosing campaign funding; and

Whereas meeting the standards in the Copenhagen Document for free and fair elections is absolutely essential to Albania's desired integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as to Albania's progress in addressing official corruption and combating organized crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes the opportunity for the Republic of Albania to demonstrate its willingness and preparedness to take the next steps in European and Euro-Atlantic integration by holding parliamentary elections on July 3, 2005, that meet the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) standards for free and fair elections as defined in the 1990 Copenhagen Document;

(2) firmly believes that the citizens of Albania, like all people, should be able to choose their own representatives in parliament and government in free and fair elections, and to hold these representatives accountable through elections at reasonable intervals;

(3) supports commitments by Albanian political parties to adhere to a basic code of conduct for campaigning and urges such parties and all election officials in Albania to adhere to laws relating to the elections, and to conduct their activities in an impartial and transparent manner, by allowing international and domestic observers to have unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(4) supports assistance by the United States to help the people of Albania establish a fully free and open democratic system, a prosperous free market economy, and its rightful place in European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and

(5) encourages the President to communicate to the Government of Albania, to all political parties and candidates, and to the people of Albania the high importance attached by the Government of the United States to this parliamentary election as a central factor in determining the future relationship between the United States and Albania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 14 years ago, Albania was just emerging from decades of brutal isolation from Europe when they held their first genuinely contested elections in 1991. Not surprisingly, they fell short of the standards for free and fair elections as defined by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE, as did subsequent elections for parliament and local government. The United States and other friends of Albania, however, remained engaged with the Albanian people throughout their turbulent transition.

Today, Albania is at the point where the country can actually hold free and fair elections, something the citizens of that country deeply deserve. Parliamentary elections have been scheduled, as Members of this House know, for July 3, and the campaign period is well underway. Staff in the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, will be serving on the international observation mission. Albania has come far in reforming its election process and through these elections has the opportunity to jump a major hurdle not

only towards completion of its transition to democracy, but in preparing for integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

There is good reason to remain concerned, however, that the elections will fall short of international standards. The good things that have been adopted, such as the Code of Conduct adopted by key political parties, may not be carried out. The OSCE's election observer mission has reported receiving an increased number of allegations of legal misuse of state resources and personnel for campaign purposes. If found to be true, those engaged in this activity would be responsible for what would be regarded as a tremendous setback for the country.

Hopefully, by passing this resolution, we can encourage Albanian authorities to respect the rule of law, to abide by their Code of Conduct, and respect the results of the upcoming election. When my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), and I first introduced this resolution, it was with the expectation the U.S. Congress could constructively make a difference by calling on the authorities, political parties, and others to do the right thing so that the real winners in the elections will be the people of Albania who make the effort to vote.

Finally, I am hopeful these elections will meet international standards, because that is one of the first steps Albania will need to take on the path to full Euro-Atlantic integration.

The new Albanian government will also need to tackle problems relating to official corruption and organized crime. Fortunately, beyond a good election process, we must see the development of civil society in Albania, with the youth groups and others pressing elected officials to address the every day problems that plague the lives of Albanian citizens.

I hope my colleagues will support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, (Mr. SMITH), and our colleague on the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), for introducing this excellent resolution urging free and fair elections in Albania. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it was 15 years ago this month that I had the privilege of being the first American Government official to set foot in Albania after a 44-year hiatus. At that time, Albania was taking its first halting steps to end a half a century of Communist dictatorship and self-imposed international isolation.

Wherever I traveled throughout the country, from formal meetings with

top government officials to casual chats with students at the University of Tirana, crowds of Albanians gathered, looking on curiously and apprehensively, but hopefully. They were anxious to join the world community, but they were fearful of the consequences of transforming the political and economic system that they knew, despite its profound failings.

□ 1630

Since 1990, Albania has worked with the United States and has participated in NATO's Partnership for Peace program. The Albanian Government has made it clear that it is very anxious to join NATO and to strengthen its relations with our Nation. Albania has indicated its desire to become a full member of the European Union with all of the economic and political obligations that that implies.

Albania's road to democracy and full international participation has not been easy. The country's parliamentary and local elections during the 1990s were marred by electoral irregularities and fraud. This hampered its desire for closer links with the Euro-Atlantic community.

The Albanian election now scheduled for July 3 provides a new opportunity for the people of Albania to demonstrate their readiness for closer ties with the United States and the democratic nations of Europe.

I have been encouraged by the commitment of Albania's leaders, Prime Minister Fatos Nano of the Socialist Party, and former President Sali Berisha of the Democratic Party, to see that this election will meet international standards for free, fair, open, and democratic elections.

The July 3 election is one of the most important in Albania since the end of the Communist era. The United States and the international community will be watching this election very carefully to determine whether Albania truly meets international standards. For Albania to make the progress that it seeks in becoming a full member of the Euro-Atlantic community within NATO and the European Union, these elections must be free and fair beyond a doubt.

Our resolution expresses the support of the Congress and the American people for open and democratic elections in Albania. It also urges our President to express to the people and the political leadership of Albania the great importance our Nation attaches to the July 3 elections. It is certainly accurate to say that the way the upcoming Albanian elections are conducted will be a central factor in determining the future relationship between the United States and Albania.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to conclude.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for this partnership resolution, as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and others. We had 27 cosponsors of this resolution.

Last July in the Commission on Security Cooperation in Europe, we held a hearing in Albania. We heard from a number of important and prominent witnesses, including representatives of MJAFT! which is the youth organization that is doing some important pioneering and important work in Albania today. I want to thank them for their work as well.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 155, urging Albania to hold its July 3 parliamentary elections in accordance with international standards. I would also like to thank the lead sponsor, CHRIS SMITH, for his work on this legislation. These elections are not only important as Albania works to develop its democratic system, but they will set the tone for the Balkan nation in the months and years ahead.

The United States and Albania have strong ties that go well beyond government relations. For that reason, we believe it is very important to support the people of Albania and their right to choose their elected representatives freely and fairly.

In the 15 years since Albania's brutal communist dictatorship came to an end, the country has struggled in its transition. While some elections have been problematic, there have been improvements over time, and now the country has a real chance to achieve the same international election standards that the United States, Canada and all of Europe adopted in 1990. Between now and election day, the real issue is whether the authorities, political parties and other stakeholders have the will to abide by the laws, regulations and a code of conduct. The active U.S. congressional interest expressed in this resolution can encourage all involved to do the right thing.

A good election process will have enormous benefits for Albania. Domestically, it will enable the next government to take stronger measures to address the official corruption and combat the organized crime which together thwart stronger economic recovery. Internationally, it will enable Albania to take the next steps to joining NATO and the European Union. Supporting Albanian elections today will only strengthen our relations in the future.

I will be in Albania for the July 3rd elections and will lead a National Albanian American Council delegation which will monitor that the polling and counting will be done in accordance with international standards. This resolution will help make the case for a good election.

As the lead Democratic sponsor of this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 155.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections. This is an important piece of legislation that will notify the people of Albania that the United States is

dedicated to safe, free, and open democracy in Albania and the region. It will let the people of Albania know that we are at their side as they strive for a more free and open society.

As the nation of Albania approaches its July 3rd parliamentary elections we must stand steadfast in our support of free, fair, and transparent elections. As a participating member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a signatory of the 1990 Copenhagen Document containing specific commitments relating to the conduct of elections, Albania must maintain its commitment to these democratic ideals. Indeed, the Copenhagen Document, which encourages transparency, balance, and impartiality in the election process, is so sound that it has become the standard by which elections are judged.

Although Albanian democracy has strengthened over the past several years, it has nonetheless failed to live up to the standards of the Copenhagen Document. Over the past 10 years, Albanian elections have not been as free, fair, and open as the Albanian people deserve. As nations around Europe and the world have made considerable strides towards democracy, meeting the standards in the Copenhagen Document for free and fair elections is absolutely essential to Albania's desired integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. Additionally, transparent democratic elections will inexorably lead to a more free and open society and government able to combat Albania's problems with organized crime.

The Republic of Albania must demonstrate its willingness and preparedness to take the next steps towards strong and stable democracy. This can only be achieved when the people of Albania choose their own representatives in parliament in free and fair elections. The Albanian government, political parties, and politicians must conduct this election in adherence to the laws that regulate all free and fair elections; transparency, free press, and unfettered access to electoral procedures by international and domestic observers.

I commend all the Albanian political parties for their commitment to adhere to campaign and election laws. If Albania is to become an active member of both the European and Euro-Atlantic community it must conduct elections that meet international standards. Failure to meet these requirements could have disastrous effects. Europe and the United States must play an active role in helping Albania move towards stable, transparent, and free democracy. This legislation will take a great step towards that goal.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 155.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 155.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules has announced that it may meet this week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered the bill reported on June 22, 2005 and filed its report with the House on June 24, 2005.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in Room H-312 of the Capitol by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Members are reminded that earlier in the year the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure set forth a specific process regarding the submission of projects for inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act. The Rules Committee does not intend to accord priority to amendments that have not gone through the aforementioned process.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the

appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3057, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-155) on the resolution (H. Res. 341) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at a meeting with BRAC Commissioner Chairman Anthony Principi at the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard in my district, I missed roll call votes 308 through 321 on June 24.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 308, no; rollcall 309, yes; rollcall 310, no; rollcall 311, yes; rollcall 312, yes; rollcall 313, no; rollcall 314, no; rollcall 315, yes; rollcall 316, yes; rollcall 317, no; rollcall 318, no; rollcall 319, no; rollcall 320, no; rollcall 321, yes.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3058, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-156) on the resolution (H. Res. 342) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the British-American Inter-parliamentary Group:

Mr. PETRI, Wisconsin, Chairman,
Mr. BOOZMAN, Arkansas, Vice Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 199, by the yeas and nays;
H. Con. Res. 155, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 458 will resume on a later day.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE MASSACRE AT SREBENICA IN JULY 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 199, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 199, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 1, not voting 62, as follows:

[Roll No. 322]

YEAS—370

Ackerman	Brown-Waite,	Deal (GA)
Aderholt	Ginny	DeFazio
Akin	Burgess	DeGette
Alexander	Butterfield	Delahunt
Allen	Buyer	DeLauro
Andrews	Calvert	DeLay
Baca	Camp	Dent
Bachus	Cannon	Dicks
Baird	Cantor	Dingell
Baker	Capito	Doggett
Baldwin	Capps	Doolittle
Barrett (SC)	Capuano	Doyle
Barrow	Cardoza	Drake
Bartlett (MD)	Carnahan	Dreier
Barton (TX)	Carter	Duncan
Bass	Case	Edwards
Bean	Castle	Ehlers
Beauprez	Chabot	Emanuel
Becerra	Chandler	Emerson
Berkley	Chocola	Engel
Berman	Clay	English (PA)
Berry	Cleaver	Eshoo
Biggert	Clyburn	Evans
Bilirakis	Coble	Everett
Bishop (GA)	Cole (OK)	Farr
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Feeney
Blackburn	Conyers	Ferguson
Blumenauer	Cooper	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Blunt	Costa	Flake
Boehner	Costello	Foley
Bonilla	Cox	Forbes
Bonner	Cramer	Fortenberry
Bono	Crenshaw	Fox
Boozman	Crowley	Frank (MA)
Boren	Cubin	Franks (AZ)
Boswell	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Boucher	Cummings	Gallegly
Boustany	Cunningham	Garrett (NJ)
Boyd	Davis (AL)	Gerlach
Bradley (NH)	Davis (CA)	Gibbons
Brady (TX)	Davis (IL)	Gilchrest
Brown (OH)	Davis (KY)	Gillmor
Brown (SC)	Davis (TN)	Gingrey
	Davis, Jo Ann	Gohmert